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Column One by David Courtney

THE Foreign Affairs debate cannot be said to have clarified matters. Foreign affairs debates rarely do. They give the Government the opportunity to set before parliament and the people as much as it dares of a situation bound to be full of uncertainties; and the party leaders an opportunity to say what the electorate expects them to say. It also gives the Opposition the chance, given to all Opposition in all democratic parliaments, to advocate the solution to problems which, luckily for itself, it will not be called upon to solve in practice.

BOTH the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister, supplementing each other on the basis of Mr. Ben-Gurion's statement that "security problems are perhaps the central axis round which foreign policy revolves" said that "imminent" threat but that war was not inevitable; and while Mr. Ben-Gurion rejected the idea of an emergency administration, announced certain emergency measures, threatened others and called upon the people of Israel to put themselves voluntarily on an emergency footing.

ISRAELIS will doubtless read into both their Prime Minister's words a sense of certain foreboding, as well as a reasonable chance of overcoming the crisis without war — the fulfilment of which Mr. Ben-Gurion vividly and properly pointed out — and even a faint chance of a peace settlement.

ALL this is part and parcel of the governing politicians' business and especially of the Prime Minister's and the Foreign Minister's business. They have the advantage of knowing more than the man-in-the-street or the man-in-the-assembly can possibly know and of having their hands on the nation's pulse ready to pull this way or that as they think desirable in the national interest. For the ordinary citizen the forebodings, even after a foreign affairs debate at the level of the one that began on Monday afternoon, are partly implanted in him by the revealed facts and partly by the uncertainty and consequent confusion of his mind.

FOR the prospect of war, unlike like war itself, to the average man, however courageous and patriotic, is like a dull pain, a heavy dread. War itself at least carries excitement and a sense of high endeavor into the heart. That is not to say that war is better than the prospect of war. War is what Mr. Ben-Gurion said it was — a savage, savagely disastrous; but the prospect of war can weigh so heavily on anxious minds that in the long run it is a curse. We cannot go on like this. Let us go to war and get it over with. Mr. Ben-Gurion said that in the Knesset, or words to that effect. It was said by a man of his years and presumed humanity and wisdom to say, Mr. Ben-Gurion said much the same but Mr. Ben-Gurion is saying it for a long time and is not expected to say anything else.

WHAT the people of Israel and what the interested governments of the world outside should ponder is Mr. Ben-Gurion's assurance that war is inevitable. It was not inevitable, then, clearly, there should be no war; and people relieved of their anxieties by evidence that an evil which was inevitable is an evil that can be prevented, especially as in this instance it would be as much an evil to the Arabs as to Israel, and to the western world as to the Middle East — and perhaps also to the Soviet Union as to all these others.

Jerusalem, January 4.
Iraq Gets Gift of 12 Centurion Tanks
BAGHDAD, Tuesday (Reuters). — Twelve 50-ton Mark-7 Centurion tanks and 30 Ferret scout cars were handed to the Iraqi Army today by British and U.S. troops at a ceremony at Musairat al Rashid, the main Iraqi Army camp south of Hana. Ten of the tanks were handed over under the U.S. military scheme, while the other two were a gift from Britain.

Mr. Waldemar Gellman, U.S. Ambassador, said that his country was "proud to be associated with Iraq in her social and economic development, and in her effort to protect these programs through increased Iraqi military strength."

British 'White Paper' Due on Arms Surplus

LONDON, Tuesday (Reuters). — In a statement from his official residence here, Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden said that there was no need to recall parliament in view of the action already taken by the Government. This action is to export surplus arms and equipment to the Middle East.

The Prime Minister bowed to one Labour demand — that an official White Paper (government report) be published on the surplus war materials issue. The statement said that there could be a debate on the White Paper, but no pledge could be given now as to the date on which it will be laid before Parliament.

Mr. Hugh Gaitskill, leader of the Labour Party, was angry tonight at Sir Anthony's refusal to recall Parliament or name a date for debate. "The matter cannot be left like this," he said. "I shall continue with my colleagues what further action to take."

The statement followed a Cabinet meeting. Earlier, the Prime Minister met Mr. Clement Davies, Liberal leader in Parliament, with whom he discussed the surplus tanks issue at 10 Downing Street.

An agreed statement issued after the Eden-Davies meeting said the Prime Minister pointed out to Mr. Davies that the control on the export of surplus war material had been strictly revised as long ago as last summer. For the first time since 1945, the Government had decided that no licences would be granted to private dealers for the export of material which might be re-exported as weapons of war, unless the Government was satisfied that the country of destination would guarantee against that happening.

Labour Firm In Demanding Publicity

By GEORGE LICHTEIM, Jerusalem Post Correspondent
LONDON, Tuesday. — Parliament may debate the Middle East before Sir Anthony Eden's departure for Washington, which is currently fixed for the last week of January. This is one result of yesterday's consultation between the Government and Opposition leaders, the latter proved unexpectedly firm in pressing for greater publicity concerning the Government's tortuous Middle Eastern policy.

If the Cabinet accepts the Opposition demand for a debate before the Washington talks, which are scheduled to begin on February 1, Parliament may have to be recalled earlier, unless the Prime Minister alters his plans for traveling by sea. Another consideration, Mr. Alfred Robens' present schedule, which should bring him back to London by January 17.

The Government's lack of enthusiasm for a January 13 parliamentary debate is as pronounced as its reluctance to accept the Opposition proposal for publication of a White Paper on the export of surplus war materials. But tempers are rising and Ministers may have to run for cover if there are further disclosures. For the moment official energies are concentrated upon the task of avoiding an escalation on arms exports instead of a (Continued on Page 3, Col. 4)

National Service Scheme Being Worked Out

Plans are being worked out to implement a six to 12 month period of National Service in the Negev and in new settlements in line with the Prime Minister's suggestions in his statement in the Knesset on Monday. It was learned in Jerusalem yesterday.

Although full particulars are not yet available, it is understood from Knesset sources that the plan mentioned on Monday to add six months for soldiers finishing their service, high school matriculation examinations which usually take place in June, may be advanced for early spring this year.

This is being carried out, the students will begin their National Service immediately. No confirmation could be received yesterday from the Ministry of Education on the earlier date for matriculation examinations. It is understood that the Ministry will be notified of the full emergency plans within a few days.

Cairo Plane Violates Israel Air Space

An Egyptian plane crossed into Israel air space on Monday afternoon and was forced to return to the Gaza Strip, the Army spokesman announced yesterday.

The plane, whose make and type were not disclosed, was seen over the Jordan border, south of the Jordan River, near Beit Sheva, on Monday night.

Israel Had Moral Right To Destroy Syrian Guns — Hazan

Jerusalem Post Knesset Reporter
Israel had every moral right to destroy the Syrian batteries on the Golan Heights, Mr. Ya'acov Hazan (Mapam) said in the Knesset foreign policy debate yesterday.

Foreign Minister David Ben-Gurion, who was not present, said in his initiative in submitting a peace plan to the State Department, he continued, but again, the decision should have been made by the entire Cabinet.

Speaking to an unusually attentive House, Mr. Hazan took issue with those who maintain that Israel has actually been in a state of war for the past seven years. Israel was still at peace, he said, and would be settled and there would be hundreds of additional villages.

Mr. Hazan declared, but only on three conditions: we must be strong; we must be ready to fight for our rights; and our Government must take the initiative in an effort to achieve peace.

Syria Angered By Lebanese Refusal To Conclude Pact

Syria may reconsider her relations with the Lebanon in view of the breakdown of negotiations for a bilateral defence agreement and the "passive attitude" of Beirut authorities to the Syrian-Egyptian pact, according to Arab political sources in Damascus yesterday.

This opinion followed a statement by the Syrian Defence Minister, Rashid Barakat, earlier yesterday that Syria has abandoned "trying to persuade" the Lebanon to conclude a military pact as the Lebanese have shown a "completely hostile attitude" in these negotiations.

In a meeting held yesterday in Beirut, the Syrian-Lebanese border, between the Syrian Premier, Rashid al-Karamah, of the Lebanon and Premier Said al-Ghazal of Syria, the former deplored Syrian hesitations in making such a statement. He termed it "immature" and said it should not have been made in view of the "present delicate situation" between the two countries.

Damascus sources added that Syria may consider restricting travel to the Lebanon. Lebanese authorities were said to argue that they are following a policy based on neutrality between the Baghdad alliance and the Syrian-Egyptian and Egyptian-Saudi Arabias pacts.

Israel Reply To Burns Published as Document

NEW YORK, Tuesday (Reuters). — The Israel U.N. delegation today published as a Security Council document its comments on last month's reply by Mr. Joseph E. Burns, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. to the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization, on the Israeli action against Syrian positions by Lake Kinneret on December 11 last.

The Israel document says it is "impossible" to accept the assumption that the solutions to the Israeli-Syrian border problem could not be reached within the scope of the General Armistice Agreement, and comments on Gen. Burns' suggestion in his report that "gentlemen's agreements" might supplement the General Armistice Agreement between the two countries.

(The document is based on the statement of the Foreign Ministry spokesman issued in Jerusalem on December 22 and which appeared in The Jerusalem Post in its issue of the following day.)

Public Opinion
Mr. Ishar Harari (Progressive), who was a member of the Israeli delegation to the recent meeting of the U.N. General Assembly, stressed the importance of having world public opinion on his side. The fatalistic view that the counts is dead in the water, that there is no value in argument, in just claims, or in persuasion, was fraught with danger.

All over the world — in every Foreign Ministry, in the State Department, in the U.S. — a constant battle was being waged between the "sons of light and the sons of darkness" and it was Israel's duty by her actions to strengthen the hand of the former. If the Security Council was not convinced after all this, Israel would not try to make an issue of it, but because she had the moral right to the peace, after Kinneret, "the sons of darkness" would be the sons of Israel.

Israel was also ignoring the importance and the influence of the Jewish Jewry, Mr. Harari asserted. For the Jewish people, the nations towards Israel were conditioned and influenced by their relationships with Jews everywhere. And if world Jewry was with us, we could not hope to influence the nations. So we must treat Jewish public opinion with respect and we must not surprise it with operations that are not understood.

The difference between an aggressive war and a defensive war was one of having public opinion on his side or against him. And no advantages that might derive from a preventive war would make up for the loss of the moral right to the peace. The world would not only abroad, but within the country as well, the fighting spirit of the people would be broken. The people would be in a defensive war, not in a war which we initiated.

French Election Results Fail To Break Political Deadlock

London Dismayed At French Results
PARIS, Tuesday (Reuters). — Political observers here expressed "dismay and distress" today at the outcome of the French general election.

A first assessment of the known results considered the Assembly which will emerge from the election as a "practically" deadlocked body. This assessment held that nothing short of a firm alignment of the non-extremist parties could now enable France to have a workable government.

But politicians here, who have followed the pre-election developments and the election with growing anxiety, feared frankly that the new Assembly would be unable to form a government might prove almost insurmountable.

The general expectation in Washington is that the new National Assembly will be divided and the governments emerging from it more unstable than ever before. In these circumstances the voice of French governments in the councils of the great powers will inevitably lack the authority which goes with anticipated permanence.

Washington officials would not, however, comment on the results of the election, but the re-election of the French President, Charles de Gaulle, was seen as a major factor in the election. The French President, Charles de Gaulle, was seen as a major factor in the election.

U.S. Congress In 84th Session

WASHINGTON, Tuesday (Reuters). — Congress assembled today for the second half of its 84th session, with early indications that the session would be a busy one for the 1955 presidential election.

The Democrats, in control of both the House and the Senate, were expected to take the initiative in early action on election year issues. These issues were expected to include such crucial matters as foreign aid, pressing American farm problems, possibility of reduction in taxes and trade policies.

Senator Lyndon Johnson of Texas, the Senate Democratic leader, and Senator William Knowland of California, the Republican leader, both said that they expected the only formal business this week would be the reading of the President's message to the State of the Union made by President Eisenhower.

Vice-President Richard Nixon from the rostrum brought the Senate to order for the opening ceremony today following a short prayer. After a roll-call, the Chamber was adjourned until Thursday.

Nasser Balks At Aswan Terms

NEW YORK, Tuesday (INA). — When the U.S. Ambassador to Cairo, Mr. Henry Byroade, called to say farewell to Premier Abdel Nasser yesterday prior to his departure for the U.S., the Egyptian Premier raised complaints about some of the conditions which the World Bank attached to the proposed \$200m. loan for the Aswan High Dam project, according to a Washington report in The New York Times today.

Mr. Byroade left Cairo today for consultations with the State Department. (The State Department said in Washington today that it had not yet received a formal reply from Cairo on the joint U.S.-British offer to help finance the Aswan project. It was stated that it was not known whether Premier Abdel Nasser had discussed objections to some of the terms, as has been reported.)

Abdul Nasser said that the World Bank's requirement that it exercise constant supervision over Egyptian national economic policies during the 15 years of the dam's construction would constitute a violation of Egyptian sovereignty. The Bank insists that it must have assurance that Egypt will not engage in rash projects that could plunge the country into inflation, making it impossible to repay the loan.

The Premier also objected to the U.S. view that tenders for initial construction of a coffee and oil storage facilities to be financed by the \$70m. U.S.-British grant, should be open to competitive bidding. The Egyptians maintain that these contracts should be arbitrarily awarded by the Government to concerns of its own choosing.

Mr. Byroade said that the U.S. and British governments were "proud to be associated with Iraq in her social and economic development, and in her effort to protect these programs through increased Iraqi military strength."

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